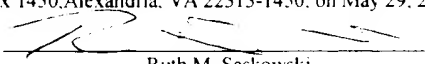




PATENT  
Docket No. 524182000400

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Ruth M. Saskowski

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of:

Lee A. BULLA, Jr.  
and Mehmet CANDAS

Serial No.: 09/696,929

Filing Date: 25 October 2000

For: MICROBE, MICROBIAL EXOPOLY-  
SACCHARIDE AND USES THEREOF

Examiner: Francisco Chandler Prats

Group Art Unit: 1651

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office action herein mailed 15 April 2003, time for response to which was set to expire 15 July 2003. This response is submitted within the two-month early response time. The claims are amended to place the application in a position for allowance. Reconsideration in light of the following amendment and accompanying discussion is respectfully requested.